

documentaries and Mental Health First-Aid classes to ensure people are educated on the signs and symptoms of potential suicide and know how to assist a veteran, friend, family member, neighbor, or co-worker in a time of crisis.

Veterans Helping Veterans Program: The program is a formalized network providing skill-based veteran volunteers with non-profits who assist veterans both directly and indirectly.

It is my honor to submit the names of the charter members of the Northern Virginia Veterans Association:

Angela McConnell, Doug Earhart, Tom Benjamin, Scott Cox, Carol McKnight, Matt Paschal, Greg Schumacher, Kathy Schumacher, Rick Bockes, Polly Sherard, Rich Nagel, Rick Haney, Toby Terrill, Cameron Dougherty, Robin Kelleher, Gwendolyn Bush, Larry Zilliox, Henry Patterson, Mike May, Emma Artis, Lee D'Orlando, Diana Paguaga, Cindy Fox, Anthony Garris, Gerald Mazur, Rob Cork, Mike Allen, Mina Little, Dave Mather, Daniela Horsman, Jerome Atger, Brooke Ray, Aminata Jah, Marianne Catina, Al Alborn, Stephen Prasser, Erika Laos, Don Howell, John Murray, Ariel Goldchain, Christine Garris, Hope For The Warriors, HealthSouth Hospital, Semper K9, Access National Bank, VITAS Hospital, Core Chiropractic, Fauquier Chamber of Commerce, Neighbor's Keeper, Brain Injury Services, Fauquier Economic Development Center, Catocin Estate Planning, Freedom Museum, Juncture Consulting, Habitat for Humanity-Prince William County, Atlantic Low Vision, Quarterly Advisory Committee Motorcycle Collaborative, Project Mend A House, The Better Brain Center, Volunteers of America, Men of War Motorcycle Club, Action in Community Through Service of Prince William, Inc., American Red Cross, Comfort Keepers, and Hylton Performing Arts Center.

Veterans can often feel abandoned and confused after being discharged. Navigating the maze of services and programs that are available can be daunting, and reintegrating into civilian life can be overwhelming. These factors, especially when combined with the effects of traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder, can lead to depression, substance abuse, anger management issues, and even suicide. This is why programs like NOVA Vets are so important and deserving of our support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the individuals, organizations, and businesses that comprise the Northern Virginia Veterans Association and in thanking them for their dedication and commitment to our veteran community.

#### TRIBUTE TO DEKALB COUNTY NAACP

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**  
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, June 21, 2016*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, since 1955, the DeKalb County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been a worthy instrument for good; and

Whereas, the DeKalb County branch of the NAACP is celebrating sixty one years at

Green Forest Community Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, this organization is a champion for civil rights throughout our county and state, ensuring the rights and liberties of our citizens in Georgia are guaranteed through the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, its members give of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to serve our community through endeavors such as voter registration, health walks, mentorships and scholarships; and

Whereas, the lives of many in our district are touched by the leadership and service given by the officers and members of the DeKalb County NAACP, our nation and the world is a better place due to their commitment to excellence in all of their endeavors; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize their outstanding service to our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim April 9, 2016 as DeKalb County NAACP Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 9th day of April, 2016.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST BRANDON A. BANNER OF MILTON, FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, June 21, 2016*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on June 2, 2016, nine soldiers were taken from us during the tragic training accident at Fort Hood, Texas. A grateful and grieving Nation mourn the tremendous loss of these fine men and women, and it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor them and pay a special tribute to United States Army Specialist Brandon A. Banner of Milton, Florida.

SPC Banner graduated from Milton High School in 2013 where he played defensive end on the school's football team. He also attended Pensacola State College before joining the Army in March 2014 as a motor transport operator. In July 2014, SPC Banner was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood.

Fort Hood had been experiencing unprecedented levels of rainfall and flash flooding when on Thursday morning, June 2, while SPC Banner and members of his unit were conducting convoy operations, their Light Medium Tactical Vehicle overturned at Owl Creek and all nine were killed. SPC Banner was 22 years old.

Amongst his Army Family, SPC Banner was known to be a loyal and faithful friend who was determined and was destined for great success. His military career may have been short-lived, but as evidenced by his several awards including the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Marksmanship Qualification Badge—Sharpshooter with Carbine, it was a career during which SPC Banner displayed an unwavering commitment to duty and excellence.

Mr. Speaker, our servicemembers know full well the risk involved when they join the greatest military in the world. Yet they do it anyway and for a cause greater than their own. We owe these soldiers and their families our everlasting gratitude and our greatest respect. Vicki and I join citizens all across Northwest Florida and our great Nation in praying for the family and friends of Specialist Brandon A. Banner and his eight comrades. May the service and selfless sacrifice of these warriors never be forgotten and may God continue to bless all members of the Armed Forces and the United States of America.

#### TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON ASSOCIATES, P.C.

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, June 21, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Paul Hamilton and Mr. Eric Hamilton of Council Bluffs, Iowa, father and son owners of Hamilton Associates, P.C. which is celebrating 60 years in business in 2016. Hamilton Associates, P.C. is a certified public accounting and consulting firm.

Hamilton Associates, P.C. is a family-owned business providing services to businesses, non-profits and individuals specializing in tax management, financial, and accounting services. Paul Hamilton said he is very proud of the quality service his firm provides to its clients. Eric Hamilton added that the best part of his job is being able to give back to the community. Paul, Eric, and staff take an active role in civic, community, and volunteer activities in the Council Bluffs area. Hamilton Associates is growing and recently acquired a firm in Omaha, Nebraska, which will double the business in the next five years. Paul said his goal is to keep the business presence strong in the area, continue to practice honest business values, and continue investing in the community.

I commend and congratulate Paul Hamilton and Eric Hamilton for their many years of dedicated and devoted service to Council Bluffs and the surrounding area. Paul and Eric make a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize them today. I know that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring their accomplishments and I wish them and their family and staff continued success in the future.

#### "TURN THE PAGE" LITERACY INITIATIVE

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, June 21, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, every summer youth without access to books lose academic skills, while those who are reading continue to make progress in developing their proficiency. Studies show that summer learning loss is a significant cause of the achievement gap between lower and higher-income youth. Students from low-income households learn at